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Chestnut tree is flourishing at Dalton State

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— The Mary Belle Price Chestnut Tree, which was planted on the Dalton State College campus in October 2006, has recently been pollinated in an effort to increase the number of blight-resistant trees throughout the state. “This was the first time we pollinated the tree,” said Don Davis, professor of sociology and the founding president of the Georgia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, which sponsored the pollination efforts. “We placed pollen from pure American chestnuts on the tree in order to create blight-resistant trees that have more American characteristics. The nuts will be harvested in the fall and given to chapter members,” he said. Davis, who helped establish the Georgia Chapter in 2004, said membership in the chapter has grown to more than 200 members statewide. The chestnut hybrid that was planted on the Dalton State campus honors Mary Belle Price, who is a Dalton native and a key American chestnut benefactor, Davis said.

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